

From the Desk of James P. Eagleman, Interpretive Naturalist

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Dear Bio-Blitz participant/visitor

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Thank you for agreeing to appear at the 2009, Brown County State Park's first ever, "Bio-Blitz"!

We are excited to have you join us and other field investigators for this cooperative, educational and worthwhile endeavor. The park's Bio-Blitz will help staff learn what is represented in your particular area of expertise and help establish property community mapping boundaries, one of our resource management objectives. It will also allow the public to learn the increasingly important role of today's biologists and botanists in an ever-demanding world. If you're agreeable, we hope to have public volunteers available to help you and conduct tours during the event. We also hope to learn what is needed to manage for a species possibly in peril. And we hope to have you enjoy a good time with everyone in the rugged and green hills of Brown County, Indiana!

While the traditional Bio-Blitz is a timed event limited to 24 hours, the size of this property (16K a., Indiana's largest state park) adds more challenges. We have extended a window of arrival and field time to the entire weekend from 8am, Friday, June 5 to 6pm, Sunday, June 7, 2009. Please plan on conducting your field investigations for however long you can, anytime during this 3-day weekend. See registration form.

To optimize coverage of the property, and to provide a variety of habitats, we've divided Brown County State Park (BCSP) into 10 Bio-Blitz units (see map). Information provided on this website and links to other resources should familiarize you with southern Indiana's deciduous woodlands, fields, wildlife, bird life and geologic features. You are free to enter any of the 10 bio-units to conduct investigations during your time here. The more suspect areas you canvas, the better; or you may wish to stay in one unit for extensive research. Keep in mind the park's backcountry is extremely rugged and remote. Paved park roads allow access to most units; once there, hiking, horse, fire (and possibly mt. bike) trails can be used further. You will be expected to access units on foot, conduct your investigations, and report GPS coordinates and findings to the Bio-Blitz headquarters at the park's nature center. Upon arrival, please plan to check in at the nature center for a schedule of Bio-Blitz activities, any updates, checklists and maps.

If you wish to stay overnight, accommodations are available in the park. Abe Martin Lodge has family cabins that sleep 8, lodge rooms, a dining room and meals. Camping is permitted in 5 campgrounds. Websites and phone numbers are provided. For those wishing to camp in a unit to maximize time in the field, a BCSP back-country camping permit application is available for the Bio-Blitz only. See the park's website for more facilities, hours of operations, services and costs. First aid, pharmacy and hardware supplies are available in Nashville, 2 miles from the park.

In the event of injury and to provide Indiana Workman's Compensation to all participants in case of accidents while here, please fill out the DNR volunteer form as part of the registration process.

Again, thank you for participating in Brown County State Park's first ever, "Bio-Blitz"! If I can be of further help, please call or email at the above address. My staff and I look forward to meeting you and learning what you can share with us, your fellow Bio-Blitz participants and the inquiring public. See you in June.